

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Volume 35, No. 3

343 King's Highway East • Haddonfield, NJ 08033

September, 1991



Greenfield Hall is 150 Years Old !!

- General Meeting -

Sunday, September 15 – 1:30 P.M.

Business Meeting followed by

Slide-Lecture on

Mrs. John Gill IV

Presented by Harriet Monshaw

- Open House -

Sunday, October 6

To Celebrate the 150th Birthday of

Greenfield Hall

2 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

MRS. JOHN GILL IV

First Mistress of Greenfield Hall

Very little is ever mentioned of the women who occupied Greenfield Hall. We do know that the present building was built by John Gill IV, a widower, in anticipation of his marriage to Elizabeth French. But who was this second Mrs. Gill? What was her background and status in the community?

How did she manage such a grand house?

Harriet Monshaw has researched this remarkable woman and will present an exciting slide-lecture about her and the times in which she lived. Join us on Sunday afternoon to learn more about Mrs. Gill as we open our sesquicentennial celebrations.

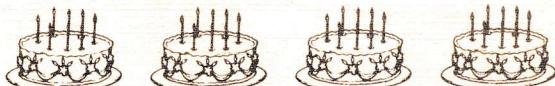


Mrs. John Gill IV

A SPECIAL DAY

The sesquicentennial of our headquarters building calls for a celebration. We have planned a Birthday Open House for the afternoon of October 6 and we're inviting the public to join in the festivities.

Both Greenfield Hall and the Hip Roof House will be open for tours. Birthday cake and punch will be served; music, clowns, and balloons for the children will add to the fun. Mark your calendar for the big day ... and plan to bring your friends.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have always considered September as the beginning of the "New Year". As a child I learned that life centered around the school year which traditionally began the day after Labor Day. This was the time when you would meet your new teacher, get reacquainted with old classmates and hopefully make new friends when transfer students joined your school population. It was also a time for setting new goals: promising silently you would get an A in a particularly difficult subject or not be sent to the principal's office quite so often for being tardy or talking too frequently in class. It was also a time to sport some new clothing since you had obviously grown over the summer vacation.

As I plan for our upcoming September meeting I find that I have that same sense of anticipation and excitement as I did in those days preceding my return to school. As members of the HSH we are about to embark on some new beginnings. Our new president, Debbie Moore, will assume office at our annual meeting on September 15. She is an experienced leader and already has established goals for the Society to keep it in the very forward moving path it has achieved in the past several years. Our membership continues to grow and we can look forward to meeting new members as well as enjoy the comfort of familiar faces. With the completion of the Hip Roof House and the redecorating of our second floor bedrooms, we are definitely demonstrating a new look, and I feel confident in saying it looks well on us.

It has been my pleasure to serve as president for the past ten months and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the board and those members who were always there to support any project that was initiated during my term. I also hope that the activities of the past year have helped other members to realize how much we value their participation and inspired them to become more active. I am looking forward to the coming events at the Society and I believe that if we join together to promote the goals of our organization we can truly have a very happy "New Year".

Sincerely,
Mickey Mack

PAINTING PARTY

Due to a delay in plastering, followed by extreme temperatures, the painting party scheduled for May never took place. We hope to undertake the project of painting the last of the three bedrooms on the second floor on Saturday, September 7. We will begin at 10 a.m. and lunch will be provided for all those who graciously volunteer their services. Please call Mickey Mack at 795-6823 if you can help.

DOCENT NEWS

Have you ever considered becoming a docent for the Society? Our docents conduct tours through Greenfield Hall and the Hip Roof House, explaining the features of the houses, the furnishings, the history of the times. They get to meet interesting, appreciative people while they perform a significant service for the Society.

Caroline Moody is organizing a new class of docents for the fall. Call her at 428-2730 to tell her you'd like to join the group. You'll discover that you'll have an enjoyable learning experience.

BY-LAWS CHANGES

At the May general meeting we voted to accept the by-laws changes to elect officers and directors of HSH in September rather than November. It has been brought to our attention by Frank Demmerly, Vice President in charge of finance, that it would be wise to also change our fiscal year to coincide with the change of officers. At this same meeting, we read the results of the poll taken as to whether or not we should change the meeting day of the Society's general meeting to Sunday. The poll results indicate that those who responded would prefer Sunday meetings. At the June Executive Board meeting it was decided to approve amendments to provide for these changes. The present by-law concerning these areas of change is stated below as well as the proposed changes. Please consider this carefully. At the September general meeting you will be asked to vote to accept or reject these amendments.

ARTICLE IV - Meetings

(presently reads)

The meetings of the Society shall be held on the third Thursday of March, May, November and September, the latter being the Annual Meeting for the election of Officers and Trustees. In the event of a conflict of date or extraordinary occurrence, the Executive Council will authorize a change in date. The Fiscal Year shall be from November first to October thirty-first.

Special meetings may be called by the President or any Vice President acting in his stead, or by a written request of any three members of the Executive Council. The Quorum for the meetings shall be twenty members.

Amended Reading of First Paragraph

The meetings of the Society shall be held on the third Sunday of May, November and September, the latter being the Annual Meeting for the election of Officers and Trustees. The March dinner meeting will be held during the week, the date to be determined by the Executive Board with due notice given to the general membership. In the event of a conflict of date or extraordinary occurrence, the Executive Council will authorize a change in date. The Fiscal year shall be from September first to August thirty-first.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

Our fame has spread far and wide - at least across the Atlantic to England - through Kathy and Doug's book "*Lost Haddonfield*". Mr. Eric Chalkley, who lives in Croydon, England, and is the father of Society member, Geoffrey Chalkley, received the book and found it "so fascinating I couldn't resist putting together a crossword puzzle." (Enclosed in this bulletin).

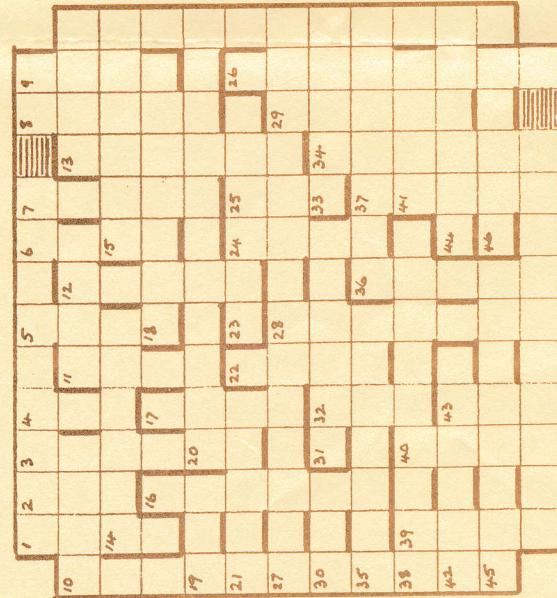
We're fascinated with the puzzle. British-type crosswords are different from the ones we're accustomed to solving, but we hope you'll take the challenge. Some of the clues relate to specific information in "*Lost Haddonfield*" which may be purchased at Greenfield Hall.

Let us hear about your successes. Mr. Chalkley's solution will be published in our next bulletin.

20 ACROSS

(A light-hearted Quiz for The H.S.H.)

By APEX



Page 119.



Across

- 10 Who was indifferent to the colonisation of storefronts? (4)
 11 Did an owner save money when he moved his house? (4)
 13 Did members of the Science Club flatter Mrs. Cawley? (4)
 15 Could Dr. Shivers cope with a membrane when problems arose? (6)
 19 Was the king of Siam or Italy treated by Dr. Braddock? (3)
 21 Who would make things smooth for a rifleman in the Grand Army? (5)
 23 Who was partial to the nuts juveniles gathered in May? (6)
 30 Who would risk life and limb to slide over the snow? (3)
 33 What was allotted to the island in a thousand? (15)
 35 Is this the word bishops gave to a working girl's child? (7)
 36 What kind of tube did walkers on air use? (7)
 37 Why did the jackdaws forsake Evans Pond? (4)
 41 Did celebrities favour the horse drawn sleigh? (6)
 42 Did celebrities favour the horse drawn sleigh? (6)
 45 Would all of Capern's joiners rest on New Year's Day? (8)
 46 Did Mrs. Pennypacker provide seed for the 1913 Celebration? (5)

Down

- 1 Who gave a bit of comfort to ailing residents? (4)
 2 Who kept a note of everything shot by the Gun Club? (3)
 3 Did any member of the local Tennis Club wear a short dress? (6)
 4 What did a German electrician install in every home? (3)
 5 Would Miss Kirby console those who fail ... (4)
 6 ... or were the students immediately sent home? (4)
 7 Would a Peddler of a bundle be safe here? (5)
 8 Where would those who kneel go after a funeral oration? (5)
 9 Which doctor had six horses to break in? (4)
 11 Who had nothing but praise for an employee? (4)
 12 What would a member of the A.P.A. Lodge always moan about? (5)
 13 Who would curse if he couldn't sail on Hopkins Pond? (6)
 17 Did Sarah Norris ever order a garment from Paris? (4)
 22 Did children really camp out in Redman's Wood? (4)
 25 Did The California Fruit Market own a storage vault? (3)
 26 Where could one see old movies on a dismal day? (8)
 28 Are maids now allowed to serve one wine? (7)
 29 Who made merry with the ode J. Keats wrote? (5)
 32 Who would repair any damage to Cooper's creek? (3)
 34 Was the operator at Willard's Telephone Store underrated? (6)
 36 Which Drug Store has started selling hardware? (5)
 37 What animal destroyed the oak pioneers planted? (5)
 39 Could one get Willard to telephone a list of candidates? (4)
 40 Did everyone rush to see "The Wizard of Oz" movie? (4)
 43 Did other denominations arrive at the same conclusion? (3)

According to D.B.R. and K.M.T. the six unclued words of the perimeter (reading clockwise from square 21) followed by 27 (two words), 24, 44, 14, 16, 38, 44, 24, 31, and 24, 18, were all associated with the development of 20.

All clues contain a definition (one word or more)

and a mixture of the letters of the required answer beginning with the beginning or ending with the end of a word in the clue.

As Americans may not be familiar with this type of crossword, some of the letter-mixtures have been underlined.

The 32 unchecked or mutually checked letters of the unclued words could be given by BILLY B. BOWLING AND RICHARD H. WINCHELL. Chambers English Dictionary (1988) is recommended.

HARRIET MONSHAW

Harriet Gotchel Monshaw is a native and long-time resident of Camden County. Her interests include horticulture, antique furniture and furnishings, interior design and historically significant architecture. Her talk on Greenfield Hall and its first

mistress, Elizabeth French Gill, represents a confluence of several of these interests. A graduate of Temple University, she is a Trustee of the Historical Society of Haddonfield and a member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and The American Association of Government Accountants.

Harriet is an auditor for the State of New Jersey, and resides in Cherry Hill with her husband, Valdemar, an engineering consultant.



Harriet Monshaw

GALAS AT GREENFIELD HALL

When the idea of renting Greenfield Hall was first suggested, it was received with considerable trepidation. Members were concerned about damage to the building, wear and tear on the furnishings, the safety of the collections, insurance and other problems related to rentals. However, since the need for an additional source of income was pressing, the Board gave its consent.

The Society take precautions to protect the building and its contents. In addition to having every renter sign a "Rental Agreement" which outlines the terms and conditions for use of the building, a representative of the Society must be present at every function.

Since the decision to rent was made, Greenfield Hall has been the setting for many gala events including weddings, receptions and rehearsal dinners, parties to celebrate birthdays, graduations and christenings. Strawbridge & Clothier was given permission to use the Victorian Parlor and the lower terrace as the background for photographs for one of their catalogs. And perhaps the most special occasion of all was the return of Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Bauer to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in their former home.

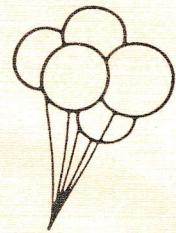
Time has proved Society members' initial fears to be unjustified. With rare exceptions, the individuals who rent the building, particularly for weddings, have long dreamed of having a reception in the romantic setting of "an historic old house." Most feel privileged to have the opportunity to be in a building with the character and charm of Greenfield Hall. They are aware of its architectural and historic significance and respect it.

Pat Lennon

(Ed. Note: *The representative of the Society who is present before, during and after each function is Pat Lennon. We are truly indebted to Pat for her dedication throughout the years.*)

BUY A BALLOON FOR GREENFIELD HALL

Greenfield Hall, the headquarters of the Historical Society of Haddonfield, is a beautiful and significant building in the community. It is a repository of local history open to the public.



In conjunction with its sesquicentennial celebration, the Society is undertaking a fund-raising project, "Buy a Balloon for Greenfield Hall", to help provide for the maintenance of the house and for the preservation of the collections. The yearly auction, usually held in the fall, will not take place this year, so this will be the season's big fund-raiser. Members, friends, businesses and institutions will be asked to purchase balloons ranging in price from \$5 to \$150. Balloons will be priced according to the color and will decorate Greenfield Hall on October 6. Donor's names will be posted inside Greenfield Hall and will be included in the November Bulletin.

Your participation will insure that Greenfield Hall will be around to celebrate many more birthdays. Please show your support by buying your balloon. Complete details will be included in a letter which will be distributed shortly by our president, Mickey Mack.

DINNER RAFFLE

"Dinner in the Grand Style of Greenfield Hall" will be served in January and you have a chance to be the host at the festivities. The raffle for the five-course gourmet dinner is a fund-raising project of the Society. We'll know who the lucky winner is at the drawing during the Birthday Party on October 6.

Tickets are still available at \$5. Each one gives you a chance to be treated to a multi-course dinner (for 10) in the fashion of 1841. Just think - you'll be able to invite your friends to join you for a special evening in a candlelight setting enhanced with crystal, silver, and lace. Last year's menu included oyster pie, stuffed beef tenderloin, frosted fruit, and other delicacies, all attractively served by members in period costume. We hope everyone will purchase a ticket for this extraordinary prize!

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Join the Women's Committee at Greenfield Hall on Tuesday morning, September 24, at 10:00. Dot Sherred will lead the group in a discussion of plans for the coming season as she completes her third term at the helm. The new chairman, Mary Jane Freedley, will take office at the next meeting.

Our many thanks are extended to Dot. Under her guidance the Women's Committee has performed many services and made many contributions. We look forward to the Committee, and Dot, continuing as active, vital parts of the Society.

REMEMBER...

Gifts and souvenirs are available at Greenfield Hall at a 10% discount to members. Come and look through our selection. You'll be sure to find an article to give to someone or to use yourself.

Slate for the New Year

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that a slate of officers for 1991-1992 has been finalized. With the exception of the President and Third Vice-President, all nominees are incumbent officers. The slate is as follows:

President	Debbie Moore
First Vice President	Connie Reeves
Second Vice President	Tom Applegate
Third Vice President	Mary Jane Freedley
Financial Vice President	Frank Demmerly
Treasurer	Vivian Stauder
Recording Secretary	Debby Troemner
Corresponding Secretary	Dianne Snodgrass

At her request, Connie Reeves will serve as First Vice President without being designated to serve as President the following year. The Nominating Committee is still in the process of developing the slate for the new Trustees.

Andy Johnson, Committee Chairman

"FAIR" REQUEST

Did you make the delicious apple cake "from scratch" and donate it to our Spring Fair bake table? The person who bought it said it had apple slices on top; she would really appreciate the recipe.

If you're willing to share your baking secret, please contact our Coordinator for the name of the person who requested it.

DATES TO REMEMBER....

September 15	General Meeting and "Mrs. John Gill IV"
September 24	Women's Committee meeting
October 6	Birthday Party
October 22	Women's Committee meeting

A QUERY AND A THEORY

By Mary Jane Freedley

As the 150th birthday anniversary of the building of Greenfield Hall approaches, the question of the age of the older section arises. This part of the house, reputedly the second house on the property, has been dated 1747. However, there are no maps or documents in the Society's files to substantiate this date.

John Gill's first home, c. 1714, according to his descendant Mary Gill Hopkins and also Judge Clement, was on his land in old Waterford Township near Berlin Road. When he married Mary Heritage, October 23, 1718 he was listed as being of Haddonfield, Newton Township. Julia Bedford Gill, a more recent Gill family historian, believed that John Gill I's second home was just south of the junction of the north and south branches of Cooper's Creek, near the site of Axford's Landing. This was also the belief of John Clement ("The First Settlers in Newton Township, New Jersey"). However, Clement says pp. 275, 276 that this land was owned by Edward Clemenz in 1692, willed to his daughter Hannah Axford in 1715, sold to John Gill II in 1763. John Gill II left this property to his third wife, Sarah. It was sold after her death at Public Vendue.

In 1720, when the Newton Meeting selected a site for a new Meeting House in Haddonfield it was "near John Gill's house". It is apparent that Gill lived on the land before he signed a lease March 25, 1725 with John and Elizabeth Estaugh for 87 acres in Haddonfield. The lease mentions housing, outhousing, barn, stables, field, fences, and orchard. Three years later the Estaughs conveyed this property to John Gill I "for and in consideration of the love and affection they have and bear to the said John Gill".

In 1746, John Gill bought a tract of land from John Cox in London and the following year deeded the more than 100 acres to his son. John Gill II then built and lived in the country house still standing on Lane of Acres, about two miles from the center of Haddonfield.

John Gill II inherited in 1749 from his father a lot along Kings Highway East just west of the 5 lots left to John Gill I's grandchildren. This lot was 4 rods (66 feet) along the road and extended 8 chains (528 feet) north into the middle of the hollow below the well. The Clement survey map in the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society shows this lot was east of the site of Greenfield Hall.

John Gill's widow married John Thorn in 1750. In 1765, John and Mary Thorn deeded to her son John Gill II, a lot of 1 acre and 9 perches, 2 chains and 4 links (about 134.5 feet) along the highway, "adjoining his land". His land was probably the lot left to him by his father. No house or building was mentioned in the indenture, but this is most likely the present site of Greenfield Hall. Two years later, Gill married his second wife, Abigail Hillman, Daniel's widow. It may be that at that time the house at 343 Kings Highway East was built.

Mary Gill Hopkins wrote in her "Family Reminiscences", p.1 "There are now in 1899 depressions in the rear of the Gill Mansion (Greenfield Hall) showing the site of the well, and the house in which his widow (Mary Gill Thorn) lived and died." Mary Thorn died in 1775, leaving the rest of her lands to her son. It seems likely that the second Gill house on Kings Highway was built some time between 1765 and 1777 when the Hessian Count Donop made his headquarters there the night before the Battle of Red Bank.

Any information or documentation precisely dating the building of the second Gill house at 343 Kings Highway East would be welcomed by the Historical Society of Haddonfield.



Oldest remaining portion of Greenfield Hall - Now the Society's Office & Library

THROUGH THE YEARS

by Connie Reeves

The land surrounding Greenfield Hall has an interesting historical background. According to early historians, the Lenape Indians called the grounds behind the present house a "clear space" where they gathered; their wigwams dotted the surrounding area. In these same fields, 100 years after the Indians had gone, Count von Donop and his 2000 Hessians camped before continuing on in their unsuccessful attempt to capture Fort Mercer on the Delaware.

The Gill family name is closely connected to these grounds and to Greenfield Hall. For almost 200 years, members of the family lived on land now occupied by our headquarters. It was during the latter part of the 17th century, when English settlers were developing New Jersey, that John Haddon of London purchased a tract of land in the colony as a speculation. Later, in 1701, his daughter, Elizabeth, came to America to occupy her father's lands and act as his agent.

The first John Gill, a nephew of John Haddon, was a surveyor and businessman who had had some legal training. Exactly when he sailed to America is not recorded although he is known to have been there by 1708. After his arrival he frequently helped his cousin, Elizabeth, with the administration of her father's properties. Over the years he travelled back and forth to England on business for her. They were long, arduous voyages and, reportedly, for his conscientious work, his uncle gave him some land.

In 1725, John Gill leased the grounds on which our headquarters now stand from Elizabeth and her husband, John Estaugh. On that land, about 500 yards to the rear of the present Greenfield Hall, it is believed he built his house. In 1728 he was able to purchase outright the 87 acres where the house stood. Like many others in that day, he increased his fortunes by selling some of his real estate holdings to other Friends.

When John Gill died, his son continued to care for Elizabeth's business. John Gill II also served as a Commissioner of Loans for Old Gloucester County. He built the next house on the property on the same site as the present house. Two rooms of this house survive as the Society's office and library.

The next occupants of the property were John Gill III and his family. The third John Gill was a farmer, an active member of the first Abolition Society of Philadelphia. His son, John Gill IV, also a farmer, inherited the property in 1838 and worked to improve the family farm by introducing the new machinery and methods of the times.

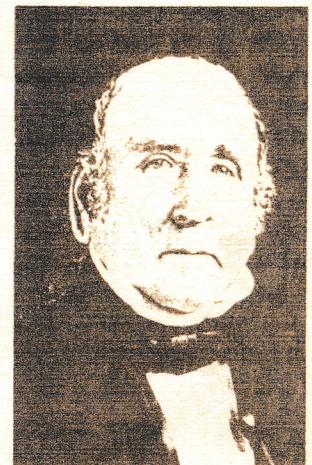
His abilities went well beyond farming, however. John Gill IV served in the State Assembly and in 1842 was elected president of the State Bank of Camden, which later became the National Bank of Camden. It was a position he held for 42 years. A reliable, trustworthy businessman, he led the bank through an era of prosperity.

It was this fourth John Gill who demolished all but two rooms of the earlier house and built a larger, more elegant one prior to his marriage to Elizabeth French of Moorestown, his second wife. This house, built in 1841, is the present Greenfield Hall.

John Gill IV's oldest child, Rebecca Gill Willits, inherited the property upon the death of her father in 1884. She lived there until 1904 when it passed to her son, John Gill Willits. Financial circumstances later forced Mr. Willits' widow to sell the house, more than two centuries after John Gill I had arrived in this new country.

Even though the estate is no longer in the hands of the Gill family, their traditions and spirit continue in Greenfield Hall. Now maintained and preserved by the Historical Society of Haddonfield, the property is included in the New Jersey and the National Register of Historic Places. It is with great pride that we celebrate the sesquicentennial of this gracious house.

(Backgrounds on the Gill family were taken from descriptions in "*Family Reminiscences*" compiled by Mary Gill Hopkins.)



John Gill IV

AN IMPORTANT R.S.V.P.

Please let us know whether you are planning to join us on Sunday, September 15, for Mrs. Monshaw's presentation. If the response is large, we will plan to have two programs in the afternoon.

Return this form to: The Historical Society of Haddonfield,
 343 King's Highway East, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

- or -

You may telephone Susan Hunter, our Coordinator, at 429-7375.

Yes, we will attend the September 15 program.

Name _____

Number planning to attend _____

MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to welcome the following new members to the Society and invite them to join us in all our activities:

Katherine L. Cone
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Console
Mr. Robert Fendt
Ms. Victoria Komarnicki
Mr. William T. Freeman
Mrs. Hoag Levins
Mr. and Mrs. C. Paul Loane

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Menkart
Mr. John T. O'Brien
Ms. Kathryn Renahan
Mr. Dale W. Renner
Ms. Susan G. Smith
Mrs. Charlotte K. Rexon
Alice and Doris Willmott

Sustaining Members – Mr. Charles J. Todd and Miss Despina Aletras

Life Member – Mr. Frank Ferenchak

Membership renewals will be mailed in late September. Please return your renewal as soon as possible. Second notices cannot be sent at the bulk-mail rate; each must have a first-class stamp affixed. The increase in postage rates means a significant additional cost to the Society. Help us save second-notice costs for more important projects.

The Historical Society of Haddonfield
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